



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/828,575	04/21/2004	Kong Eng Cheng	APP 1566	5284
9941 7590 11/01/2007 TELCORDIA TECHNOLOGIES, INC. ONE TELCORDIA DRIVE 5G116 PISCATAWAY, NJ 08854-4157			EXAMINER HWANG, JOON H	
			ART UNIT 2166	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 11/01/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/828,575

Applicant(s)

CHENG ET AL.

Examiner

Joon H. Hwang

Art Unit

2166

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 July 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The applicants amended claims 9 and 16 in the amendment received on 7/9/07.
The pending claims are 1-19.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
4. Claims 1 and 3-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claim 1 is directed to querying any of a plurality of target databases. This claimed subject matter lacks a practical application of a judicial exception (law of nature, abstract idea, naturally occurring article/phenomenon) since it fails to produce a useful, concrete and tangible result. Specifically, the claimed subject matter does not produce a tangible result because the claimed subject matter fails to produce a result that is limited to having real world value rather than a result that may be interpreted to be abstract in nature as, for example, a thought, a computation, or manipulated data. Claims 3-6 are likewise rejected.

Art Unit: 2166

Claim 7 is directed to querying any of a plurality of target databases. This claimed subject matter lacks a practical application of a judicial exception (law of nature, abstract idea, naturally occurring article/phenomenon) since it fails to produce a useful, concrete and tangible result. Specifically, the claimed subject matter does not produce a tangible result because the claimed subject matter fails to produce a result that is limited to having real world value rather than a result that may be interpreted to be abstract in nature as, for example, a thought, a computation, or manipulated data. Claims 8-15 are likewise rejected. Claim 7 furthermore fails to produce a tangible result when a single reference database is not selected.

The claims 16-19 lack the necessary physical articles or objects to constitute a machine or a manufacture within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 101. They are clearly not a series of steps or acts to be a process nor are they a combination of chemical compounds to be a composition of matter. As such, they fail to fall within a statutory category. They are, at best, functional descriptive material *per se*. "a processor" being in the body of the claim 16 is suggested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
6. Claims 1, 3, 6, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ellard (U.S. Patent No. 5,991,758).

With respect to claim 1, Ellard teaches querying a reference database for a reference database record that matches the input data (i.e., querying the MEI, lines 9-14 in col. 5). Ellard teaches if a matching reference database record is found, querying any of the plurality of target databases for the one or more target database records that correspond to the reference database record (i.e., retrieving a complete data from information sources, lines 9-14 in col. 5 and lines 17-21 in col. 10).

With respect to claim 3, Ellard teaches querying the reference database for reference database records that possibly match the input data (lines 29-47 in col. 8). Ellard teaches if a matching reference database record is not found but one or more possibly matching reference database records are found, determining if a possibly matching record can be considered a near-matching record to the input data (lines 29-47 in col. 8 and lines 14-45 in col. 15). Ellard teaches if a near-matching record is determined, querying any of the plurality of target databases for the one or more target database records that correspond to the near-matching record (lines 29-47 in col. 8, lines 14-45 in col. 15, and lines 29-47 in col. 8).

With respect to claim 6, Ellard teaches if a matching reference database record is found, querying for records that possibly correspond to the reference database record (lines 29-47 in col. 8, lines 14-45 in col. 15, and lines 29-47 in col. 8).

With respect to claim 16, Ellard teaches a set of reference-based mapping rules for matching input data queries to reference database records (lines 29-47 in col. 8, lines 14-45 in col. 15, lines 29-47 in col. 8, and fig. 3). Ellard teaches a set of target-based query rules for matching reference database records to target database records

Art Unit: 2166

(lines 29-47 in col. 8, lines 14-45 in col. 15, lines 29-47 in col. 8, and fig. 3). Ellard teaches a validation and mapping process that given an input data query, user the set of reference-based mapping rules to match a record in a selected reference database to the given input data, and uses the target-based query rules to match the one or more target database records in the one or more target databases to the matched reference database record or to canonical form of the matched reference database record (lines 29-47 in col. 8, lines 14-45 in col. 15, lines 29-47 in col. 8, and fig. 3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

8. Claims 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ellard (U.S. Patent No. 5,991,758) in view of Asher et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,287,002).

With respect to claim 2, Ellard discloses the claimed subject matter as discussed above except generating a request to enter a new input data query if a reference database record is not found. However, Asher teaches generating a request to enter a new input data query if data is not found (lines 28-12 in cols. 10-11 and fig. 7) in order to minimize the number of unnecessary notices of unavailability of data sent to the user. Therefore, based on Ellard in view of Asher, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teaching of Asher to the system of Ellard in order to minimize the number of unnecessary notices of unavailability of data sent to the user.

Art Unit: 2166

With respect to claim 4, Ellard discloses the claimed subject matter as discussed above except generating a selection request to choose from among the one or more possibly matching records a record that corresponds to the input data. However, Asher teaches generating a selection request to choose from among the one or more possibly matching records a records that corresponds to the input data (lines 28-12 in cols. 10-11 and fig. 7) in order to minimize the number of unnecessary notices of unavailability of data sent to the user. Therefore, based on Ellard in view of Asher, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teaching of Asher to the system of Ellard in order to minimize the number of unnecessary notices of unavailability of data sent to the user.

9. Claims 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ellard (U.S. Patent No. 5,991,758) in view of Yaung (U.S. Patent No. 7,272,833).

With respect to claim 18, Ellard discloses the claimed subject matter as discussed above except a list of transformation rules for converting reference database records to canonical forms. However, Yaung teaches converting data to canonical forms (lines 55-43 in cols. 21-22) in order to provide a datastore neutral representation of the data. Therefore, based on Ellard in view of Yaung, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teaching of Yaung to the system of Ellard in order to a datastore neutral representation of the data.

Art Unit: 2166

With respect to claim 19, Yaung further teaches converting data to customized canonical formats that correspond to the target databases (lines 55-43 in cols. 21-22). Therefore, the limitations of claim 19 are rejected in the analysis of claim 18 above, and the claim is rejected on that basis.

Allowable Subject Matter

10. Claims 5 and 17 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 101, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

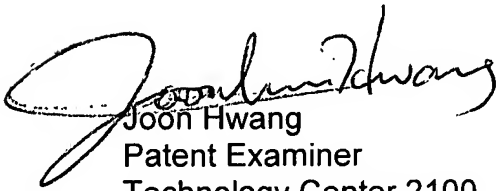
Claims 7-15 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 101, set forth in this Office action.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joon H. Hwang whose telephone number is 571-272-4036. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00(M~F).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain T. Alam can be reached on 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2166

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Joon Hwang
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2100

10/29/07